

An informal newsletter aimed at debating the subject of terrestrial zodiac possibilities in the landscape and their relationship to other geomantic studies. Produced by Paul Screeton, 5 Egton Drive, Seaton Carew, Hartlepool, Cleveland, TS25 2AT, at intermittent intervals. Free but any contributions of monies or stamps welcome.

YOU AND THE MALTWOOD FUND CASH

No doubt many readers of this newsletter are unaware that the late Katherine Emma Maltwood left a substantial amount of money in trust to The Royal Society of Arts. Mrs Maltwood was, of course, the rediscoverer of the Glastonbury Zodiac, an object of scorn as far as orthodox archaeology is concerned, which makes it incongruous that one of the panel of advisers assessing the merits of claimants for grants from her fund is Prof. Glyn Daniel, who has publically ridiculed the terrestrial zodiac hypothesis. As Nigel Pennick observed in his Journal of Geomancy, his position with regard to this fund is comparable with the thought that Adolf Hitler could have been treasurer of a synagogue.

For readers' information, I follow my comments here with a R.S.A. Press release and would urge any of you considering TZ research in Somerset next year to make early application for a grant. As far as I know, no such attempt has been made and I would be interested to know of anyone's attempts (past, present or future) to channel this money in a direction to which Mrs Maltwood would have approved.

MALTWOOD FUND FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN SOMERSET
GRANTS FOR 1978

Grants to a total of £1,000 from the Maltwood Fund have been made by the Society to assist the following in carrying out projects of archaeological and antiquarian research in or relating to Somerset during 1978:

£50 to Mr C J Arnold of the University of Leeds to continue his excavations of a fortified 14th Century manor house at Newton St. Loe; £100 to Mr Michael Aston to further his research into deserted medieval settlements by means of aerial flights and photography; £150 to the University of Spelaeological Society for publication of its report on the Romano-British cemetery at Wookey Hole Cave; £200 to Dr John Coles of the University of Cambridge for continuing excavation of Bronze Age structures in the Somerset Levels at Meare; £50 to Mr Derek Gill to assist his research into the early building history of Frome; £100 to Mrs L J Hall to help finance research into the early vernacular architecture of North Somerset; £300 to the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society for (a) archaeological research on the island of Steep Holm and (b) purchase of a run of aerial photographs of the Frome-Glastonbury-Yeovil triangle of Somerset; £50 to Mr W J Wedlake to assist publication of the Wallmead Bronze Age barrow excavation of 1964-6.

The Maltwood Fund for Archaeological Research in Somerset was established by the Royal Society of Arts in 1969, using the income from money bequeathed for the purpose by a Fellow of the Society, the late Mrs Katharine Maltwood. A total of £9225 has been disbursed in grants from the Fund to date.**

A further offer of grants will be made in due course for work to be carried out in 1979.

In making these awards, the Society has been advised by a special committee including Mr A Llewellyn Smith (chairman), Prof G Daniel (Disney Professor of Archaeology, University of Cambridge), Prof W F Grimes (lately Professor of Archaeology, University of London), Mr L A Haldane (representing the Somerset A&NHS), Dr D B Harden (formerly Director of the London Museum) and Dr C A Raleigh Radford (representing the Society of Antiquaries and the British Association for the Advancement of Science).

** A correct spelling of Katherine is not even made.

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(CLUES TO A POSSIBLE T.Z. IN THE MEDIEVAL STORY OF LLEW LLAW GYFFES)

Katherine Maltwood found a disguised account of the Glastonbury Zodiac in The High History of the Holy Grail. At least two other medieval tales are set in identifiable areas of Britain and include a faithful account of local landscapes: Sir Gawain and the Green Knight recounts a journey through N. Wales and N.E. England, while one version of Tristram and Iseult is set near Fowey in Cornwall. With these examples in mind, it's worth examining the bardic stories in the Mabinogion, some of which also have real locations, for themes which have a bearing on earth mysteries. The stories are corrupt versions of oral tales, written down in the 14th. C. but originating much earlier. The following information is taken from the translation of the Mabinogion by Gwyn Jones and Thomas Jones (Dent Everyman, 1974 ed.) and a commentary by Robert Graves in ch. 17 of The White Goddess.

The story of Llew Llaw Gyffes forms the second half of the fourth branch of the Mabinogi, that of Math son of Mathonwy. The elements of the story can be simplified as follows:

- * Arianrhod (or Aranrhod) gives birth to twins: a yellow-haired boy named Dylan Eil Ton ("Sea son of Wave") who can swim like a fish as soon as he is born; and an unnamed "something", taken and hidden in a chest by Gwydion the magician, Arianrhod's brother.
- * Gwydion fosters the second boy, who grows twice as fast as normal children. When the boy is taken to Arianrhod, she refuses to recognise him and lays a doom that he will not be named until she names him.
- * Gwydion makes a boat and a stock of shoelather out of seaweed. He and the boy sail to Arianrhod's castle disguised as shoemakers, and she is tricked into having her feet measured for shoes.
- * The boy then shoots a wren between the sinew and bone of its leg, and Arianrhod inadvertently names him Llew Llaw Gyffes, meaning either "the lion with the steady hand" or "the fair one with the deft hand". When Gwydion lifts the disguise, she lays a second doom that Llew will not bear arms until she herself endows them.
- * Llew grows to become a skilled horseman. One day he and Gwydion visit Arianrhod's castle again, disguised as bards. Gwydion makes it seem that the castle is surrounded by hostile forces and Arianrhod arms the two men. The second doom is thus thwarted and the disguise again lifted. Arianrhod then swears that Llew will never have a human wife.
- * Gwydion and Math ap Mathonwy, lord of Arfon, conjure Blodeuedd ("owl") out of flowers to be a wife for Llew, and endow the couple with land and a castle in Ardudwy, the region south of Arfon.
- * One day when Llew is away, Blodeuedd is visited by a hunter, Gronw Pebyr, and is seduced by him. Gronw advises her to find out how Llew's death can be caused. The procedure is complicated and magical: he can only be killed with a spear that takes a year of Sundays to make, and then only when he is standing with one foot on the edge of a tub and the other on the back of a he-goat. (Folk heroes often meet strange ends.).
- * Gronw makes the spear and Blodeuedd tricks Llew into demonstrating the balancing trick. When he does so, he is immediately struck down by the spear and is transformed into an eagle. Gronw takes over the lordship of Ardudwy and the news of the treachery is brought to Gwydion.
- * Gwydion is led to Llew by a sow that leaves its sty every day to feed on the flesh that falls from the wounded eagle. The magician restores Llew to human form and he is nursed back to health at Math's castle.
- * Math, Gwydion and Llew lead an army to Ardudwy. Blodeuedd is turned into an owl and Gronw has to undergo the same death that he prepared for Llew, except that a stone is placed in front of him and is holed by the spear. The revenge is completed; Llew resumes his former lordship.

Some of the zodiacal elements in the story are probably already obvious. That the story contains a calendar was pointed out by Robert Graves, who also noted other mythological themes which cannot be covered here, interesting though they are. It seems to me that the story translated into iconographic form (in true Graves style) becomes not merely a zodiac, but specifically a terrestrial zodiac of the standard (Glastonbury) type. This, briefly, is the scheme:

- Pisces -- twins born, one of whom is a "fish". Llew always has a twin, whose identity changes from Dylan to Gwydion to Gronw at various stages.
- Aries -- the rapid growth of the second twin is appropriate to springtime, although there is no reference to a Ram.
- Taurus -- the shoelather and the business of measuring Arianrhod's feet recall the emphasis on the Bull's foot (in Somerset TZ).

Gemini -- Llew and Gwydion in the boat (Cancer/Argo Navis). As a skilled archer, Llew as Gemini foreshadows his adult self as Sagittarius.

Leo -- Llew again, named as "the lion with the steady hand".

Virgo -- the White Goddess takes three forms, as usual: Arianrhod the mother, Blodeuedd the bride and the unnamed Ceridwen in the form of the sow at Llew's "death". As an owl, Blodeuedd is probably also the bird found near the centre of most TZs (Libra), although there is another interpretation of this figure in the story.

Scorpio -- Gronw Pebyr, the agent of Llew's death, with spear as sting.

Sagittarius -- Llew as skilled horseman and archer, central sacrificial figure in the proposed zodiac, as Arthur as Glastonbury.

Capricorn -- the he-goat or buck that Llew stands on to be killed. The Archer's foot rests on the Goat's back in some TZs.

Aquarius -- Llew transformed into an eagle -- although the usual relative positions of the Archer's head and the Libran bird suggest something like the escape of the soul in another form.

Although the interpretations for Aries and Taurus may seem less than satisfactory, the rest of the story fits well into the zodiac framework in the right order, and includes the terrestrial rather than celestial forms of Cancer, Libra and Aquarius. If this rings true, I'd suggest that those interested should read the full version of the story in the Mabinogion to see whether other zodiac references come to light.

The entire story is located in N.W. Wales, in the area around the Snowdon massif. Some of the sites can be identified today on OS sheets 115 and 124. Specific sites mentioned are:

1. Caer Dathyl, the Gŵstle of Math ap Mathonwy, where Llew and Dylan were born and where Llew was restored to health. This was in Arfon, the hinterland of the city of Caernarvon, but I haven't been able to discover where the location was or whether anything remains on the site.
2. Caer Arianrhod, the castle where Llew received his first name and then his arms. This is represented by a stony bank, uncovered at low tide, off the coast south of Caernarvon (SH 423547). In his book Sunken Cities, F.J. North explained the stones as glacial debris (as he did all the coastal features of Wales, such as Sarn Badrig causeway) and stated that Caer Arianrhod was shown as the site of a village on a map of 1573. In the story, Gwydion and Llew sailed to the castle from Aber Menai, about 4 miles up the coast; Aber Menai was also within walking distance of Caer Dathyl (1), which must have been fairly near Caernarvon.
3. Dinas Dinlleu, where Llew grew up and learned to ride, has dropped the "u" to become Dinas Dinlle. It is an oval earthwork about a mile from Caer Arianrhod -- SH 436564.
4. Mur-y-Castell, the home of Llew and Blodeuedd in Ardudwy, is now called Tomen-y-Mur, and is described by the OS as a Roman fort and amphitheatre. It lies n-e of Llyn Trawsfynydd at SH 706387.
5. The River Cynfael, where Llew was struck with the spear, runs about 1½ miles north of Tomen-y-Mur (4), flowing west into the Vale of Ffestiniog. The exact site is unknown -- in the story it is described as being in the lee of Bryn Cyferyg, but this hill is not named on the modern map. The site should be marked by the holed stone, known as Llech Ronw, which Gronw Pebyr used as a shield.
6. The valley of Nantlleu, where Gwydion found Llew in eagle form in an oak tree. This may be represented by the hamlet of Nantlle (SH 510534) in the Llynfi valley. It is about 5 miles inland from Caer Arianrhod and Dinas Dinlle, and has the same changed syllable ("lle" for "lleu") as the latter.
7. Llyn Morynion, "the lake of the maidens", where Blodeuedd's companions drowned when fleeing from the avenging army, and presumably where Blodeuedd herself was transformed into owl shape. The lake lies above the valley of the Cynfael at SH 738423.

These sites fall into two groups, one on the coast near Caernarvon (1, 2, 3, & 6) and the other s-e of Snowdon (4, 5 & 7). The distance between the two groups is about 20 miles. If the story does conceal a terrestrial zodiac it should lie somewhere in that area, probably with the spring signs in the n-w and the autumn signs in the s-e. This is where conjecture must end -- if there is a "Snowdon Zodiac", then the bards who told the story of Llew Llaw Gyffes knew its secret; if not, then the interpretation offered here is of no value to TZ researchers. If you are working on earth mysteries in North Wales and think that there might be a genuine clue here, or can offer some further information, I'd be very glad to hear from you. ----

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THE STONEGATE ZODIAC

by MIKE COLLIER

It was whilst writing a piece on the Long Man of Wilmington that it appeared there had once been not one but a series of figures there including one of a man falling off a horse. Mention was made then that possibly this was a representation of Sagittarius and that the other lost figures could have been the rest of the zodiac -- the Man being the one which has remained.

The zodiac itself is one of the biggest so far found, being 20 miles across and more, and is mainly in Sussex with some of it in Kent, the Surrey border being not many miles away. The meeting of these three counties having been mentioned by others as a possible zodiac location.

A brief description of the figures:

Scorpio: As befits the death sign, near the site of the Battle of Hastings.

Virgo: The customary goddess with sheaf. The lower part of her outline seems to be the top of a large crow's head between her and Scorpio. It is difficult to make sense of this but recently John Billingsley has found a crow between Virgo and Scorpio in the Hebden Bridge Zodiac. Also a cock and it is interesting to note that a cock was reputed to be alongside the Long Man.

Leo: Lions Green is the clue here although it does appear to be more like a hound; in a Babylonian zodiac this would be so. A wolf?

Gemini: A giant in a boat, the Argo Navis. Here there is Argos Hill, Skippers (of the boat) Hill, Sleeves Wood and Cross in Hand.

Cancer: Here is a superb outline of the previously elusive crab.

Taurus: Not the best of the figures but the head and hoof but with so far no large horns.

Aries: Here the head is looking southwards towards the sea. Its tail is an earthwork called Ramslye Fat and the horns are marked in Hawshurst ((this article is copied from a handwritten account and hopefully copied correctly! -- ed.)) Wood. Boarshead is by the head. A mistake in folk memory or is there another figure?

Pisces: A whale and a fish. Bayham Abbey at the mouth of the whale and Jews Wood in its belly.

Aquarius: As a Glastonbury the phoenix. Flightshott Farm nearby.

Capricorn: The figure associated with Pan and the earthy side of nature is the goat-unicorn and has an almost "man-like" look with a virile appearance. This extraordinary figure has a shortage of churches, H.M. detention centre, Worms Hill, Folly Hill and the incredible name Nevergood. Nearby is Mount Easy.

Sagittarius: The front of the figure is a little incomplete and it may yet be a stumbling horse or a centaur. The arm pulled back to fire the arrow at the church at Great Butts. The Moor and The Haus are two odd placenames, but The Haus is right on the head which may put this in the sphere of Cernunnos. Or is it the Arthur figure?

Libra: Possibly not found as I think the bird on the outside of the circle by the horse head is more likely to resemble a hawk.

The Elephant I can only imagine links the zodiac with the Long Man although, of course, it is quite likely that it may be nothing to do with it. If the fish is a dolphin behind Brighton it is interesting to note that dolphins are Brighton's insignia but no one knows why.

For those familiar with "Landscape Geometry of Southern Britain", by Michael Behrend, the point F is in the ship, thus relating the zodiac to the heptagon. Regarding dowsing, it has only been possible to check the bird, horse head and elephant, but they dowsed (to me) exactly the same as a ley. The samewidth, feel, and with the same strangeness -- like non-straight leys. Arthurians might do well to note there is a Glassenbury here and as for The Moor, Mrs Maltwood stated Arthur lies at the end of The Moors adventurous!

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"THE KINGSTON ZODIAC"

by

MARY CAINE (from the
author at 25 Kingston
Hill, Kingston, Surrey.
75p + 10p p&p).

"There is a strange delight in finding
eternity in council-estates -----
Paradise in rubbish dumps."

Undoubtedly the most disturbing factor in the proliferation of allegedly discovered terrestrial zodiacs during the past few years is the indecent haste with which results are being presented in flimsy form. I do not doubt that there may be a very large number of such star temples, but the case for their reality is threatened by the weak presentation of "evidence". A model of how to give one's researches credibility and gain affirmation is this work.

Each figure is treated in detail and comparison with Glastonbury's Somerset Giants is useful corroboration, philology and mythology is used to flesh out the meanings of place names, and Mrs Caine shows a keen comprehension of solar mysteries symbology. The book is erudite and intuitive and the lively, quixotic style is reflective of this remarkable woman and friend.

There is much speculation of a highly intuitive, personal and curious nature which however far fetched in isolation could be scorned or ignored, when amassed and argued here tends to find itself becoming much, much more than its individual parts: random examples being the linking of Arthur's last river journey with the universities's boat race (a humdrum event blown out of all proportion by the media, unless, of course.....); also "coincidences" are noted which are familiar to all who make serious efforts to unravel strands of the Western Mystery Tradition; rivers's curvature over the century retaining the necessary movement required to depict animal figures adequately; tantalising Templar "jokes"; nursery rhymes written in the landscape; in fact even the most mind-bending seemingly trivial tid-bits of information (why there seems a significance in Herschel, discoverer of Uranus, living at Slough, etc!) fit the pattern.

There is also a strong radical streak present, though how intentional is hard to judge. Mary Caine seems to praise such figures as Robin Hood, a protector of the oppressed, and also referring to the Norman policy of utilising prehistoric mounds and "at a stroke suppressing the free speech traditional upon them and securing the centres of religion, law, education and commerce."

Her vision also goes so far as to argue that "the ancients fused history and myth together, seeing history as myth working through time on the human stage", and provides examples.

The summing up is commonsensical and I am in complete agreement, particularly with her insistence that the zodiacs are natural and are still evolving.

A useful lesson to all ferreting in the happy hunting ground of terrestrial zodiacology.

Donations towards the cost of producing this
magazine are acknowledged from Gordon McLellan,
Vince Russett, Alan Maxwell, T.A. Johnson, Dr
E.J.C. Hewitt, and Miss C.E. Stuart-Mills.

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Constraints from a variety of directions have meant
that it has been quite some time since I last typed
out a T.Z.N. and apologies to those who should have
received letters but have not done so as I piled the zodiacal correspondence
into a neat pile awaiting attention. Most of you have been very patient -- and
no doubt you will be rewarded elsewhere! As for those who have taken umbrage,
well..... To Peter M. Hughes I should particularly have replied sooner as he
has been good enough to send photostats of figures. Might I ask correspondents
to try to map out clearly TZs on A4 size paper (same size as you are reading)
their TZs as it might be possible in the future to include photostats. If it
is feasible that whoever submits an article can also photostat their own TZ for
inclusion this would be greatly appreciated. Runs of this newsletter vary and if you
can photostat a sheet then please ask and I'll quote an approximate run planned for
whichever issue I'm next running off.

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